

3. On Three African Buffaloes.

By R. LYDEKKEK*.

[Received May 12, 1910.]

(Text-figures 145-148.)

In the present communication I take the opportunity of giving figures of the heads or horns of three races of African Buffaloes, two of which, in my opinion, indicate types distinct from any of those described by Dr. P. Matschie in his paper on the local forms of African Buffaloes published in the 'Sitzungsberichte Ges. Naturfor.,' Berlin, 1906.

1. BOS CAFFER THIERRYI Matschie.

As announced in the 'Daily Telegraph' of December 30th, 1909, Dr. K. W. Kumm, during his journey through equatorial Africa from Lake Chad to Wau, obtained evidence of the existence in the Upper Shari Valley of what he at the time regarded as a new Buffalo. This portion of the Shari Valley, it may be well to mention, is situated in the French Congo, somewhat to the northward, so far as I can determine from the narrative, of an east-and-west line connecting Adamawa, in the German Cameruns, with the British station of Wau, in the Balu-el-Ghazal. The single trophy of this Shari Buffalo brought home (and presented to the British Museum) by Dr. Kumm consists of the frontlet and horns of an adult, but not aged, bull (text-fig. 145). The animal to which the specimen belonged appears to have been killed at a comparatively recent date, but not, I should say, by a European; and the long, sharp tips of the horns afford decisive evidence as to its relative age.

In the fact that they are situated throughout their length almost in one plane, coupled with the great length of the slender, cylindrical tips, which exceeds that of the basal portion, and the right angle formed by the junction of these two portions with one another, the Shari horns accord with the pair from the interior of Togoland, German West Africa, described and figured by Dr. Matschie on page 172, fig. 3, of the paper already cited, under the name of *Bubalus thierryi*. The Shari horns are, however, much deeper in the antero-posterior direction at their bases, where they are more expanded and flattened, and also much more closely approximated in the middle line than in the type of *thierryi*. The latter is, however, a female, and this being so, there seems no reason why the Shari horns should not pertain to the same race. Accordingly, despite the long interval between the localities where the two specimens were obtained, there seems no possibility of separating the Shari horns from *thierryi*, and I therefore associate them provisionally with that race.

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The horns of the Lake Chad *B. c. brachyceros* are of a much smaller and totally different type; while those of the Senegambian *B. c. planiceros*, according to the specimen figured on page 105 of my 'Wild Oxen, Sheep, and Goats,' have, even when unworn, much shorter tips.

Text-fig. 145.



Frontlet and horns of bull of *Bos caffer thierryi*.
From Dr. Kumm's specimen in the British Museum.

The horns of Dr. Kumm's specimen have a length of $31\frac{1}{4}$ inches along the outer curve, with a basal span of 8 inches, and a tip to tip interval of $26\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

2. *BOS CAFFER SIMPSONI*, subsp. n.

On page 156 of vol. cxv. of the 'Field' newspaper for 1910, I gave a preliminary notice, accompanied by a figure, of certain Buffalo-heads obtained by Mr. M. W. Hilton-Simpson on the left bank of the Kwilu River in the Belgian (not, as I first thought, the French) Congo. This river, which takes its rise in Portuguese territory, runs nearly due north, and discharges into the Kwango, a tributary of the Kasai, which, in its turn, forms the most important affluent of the Congo. Of these Buffaloes, which were found in herds of considerable size, the heads of two bulls and two females were brought home by Mr. Hilton-Simpson, and of these one female has been presented to the British Museum.

In the heavily fringed ears and the general form of the horns these Buffaloes approximate to the well-known red Congo Buffalo (*B. c. nanus*); but the horn-measurements of the largest bull

(text-fig. 146) exceed any recorded for the latter race, the right horn measuring $25\frac{3}{8}$ inches along the outer curve and the left one $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the basal girth of the former being $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches, its maximum width $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches, and the expanse from tip to tip $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In the largest cow (text-fig. 147) the left horn measures 15 inches in length, with a girth of $9\frac{1}{2}$ and an expanse of $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches. In profile the horns incline upwards nearly in the plane of the face.

Text-fig. 146.

Head of bull *Bos caffer simpsoni*. From Mr. Hilton-Simpson's specimen.

The colour of both cows and bulls is a pure brown, and thus much darker than the tawny red of *nanus*; the young only agreeing approximately in hue with the latter, and the cows being fully as dark as the bulls. Except in the bull whose head is shown in text-fig. 146, the fringes of the ears are tinged with tawny, with one white lock. In size, Mr. Simpson estimates that the Kwilu Buffalo slightly exceeds the specimens of the red Congo race mounted in the British Museum.

That the Kwilu Buffalo is distinct from *B. c. nanus*, whose habitat includes Nigeria, Ashanti, and Sierra Leone, seems to be clearly indicated by its darker colour and larger horns, the form of which does not agree precisely with those of any example of the latter that have come under my notice; and I cannot identify it with any of the other races at present. Accordingly, I propose to regard it as representing a distinct race, under the name of *Bos caffer simpsoni*; taking as the type the head of a cow which Mr. Hilton-Simpson has presented to the British Museum.

Text-fig. 147.



Head of cow *Bos caffer simpsoni*. From Mr. Hilton-Simpson's specimen.

The Kwilu Buffalo evidently forms a connecting-link between *B. c. nanus* and the short-horned blackish races of *Bos caffer*, as exemplified by a pair mentioned by Dr. Graham Renshaw in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1904, p. 130, as being then living in the Antwerp Zoological Gardens. Those animals appear to have had horns of the same general type as those of the Kwilu race, but their general body-colour was much darker, being described as dark blackish brown; the ears show similar heavy fringes. As suggested by Dr. Renshaw, these Buffaloes may have been the Senegambian *B. c. planiceros*.

3. *BOS CAFFER COTTONI* (?) Lydekker.

So far as my information goes, the small-horned *Bos caffer brachyceros* is at the present time known only by the two type skulls brought home by Messrs. Denham and Clapperton after their journey through the Lake Chad district, and named and described by Dr. Gray in the 'Annals & Magazine of Natural History' for 1837, vol. i. p. 587. As to the precise locality where this so-called Lake Chad Buffalo was obtained, there is no definite information, the original description merely mentioning "Central Africa": accordingly, the spot may well have been scores of miles distant from the Lake. In 'Wild Oxen, Sheep, and Goats' I have tentatively regarded the two type skulls as respectively representing the bull and cow of the Lake Chad race; and I am now more convinced than ever of the correctness of this interpretation. A figure of the skull of the bull, which is fully adult, will be found on page 114 of the volume cited

Text-fig. 148.

*Bos caffer cottoni* (?). Head of young male.

From the specimen in the British Museum.

This skull is characterised by the shortness and generally small size of the horns, which are separated by a wide gap in the middle line of the forehead, and show no marked expansion or prominence at the base. Their basal portion, which presents a nearly flat front surface, ascends upwards and outwards

at an angle of almost exactly 45° with the middle line of the skull for some distance, after which the horns are curved inwards in a regular sweep, so that the tips (which are quite unworn in the specimens) are directed inwards in a nearly horizontal plane. In my judgment, this type of horn is quite distinct from that of both *B. c. nanus* and *B. c. planiceros*.

Thus matters stood till 1907, when Prince E. Demidoff presented to the British Museum the head of an immature bull Buffalo belonging to one of the little-known reddish races, shot by his brother, the late Prince Paul Demidoff, somewhere in the interior of the French Congo. The immature condition of the horns in this specimen (text-fig. 148) is extremely unfortunate, and led me at first to the conclusion that they indicated a short-horned race, with a large interval on the forehead between the horns of opposite sides, and a horn-curvature which would probably grow into that of *brachyceros*; but a specimen from the same district shown me by Mr. Rowland Ward proves this to be wrong. In colour the abundant hair of Prince Demidoff's specimen is decidedly darker than that of the bull *nanus* from Ashanti exhibited in the Museum; its general tint being tawny brown, tending to blackish or black on the muzzle and chin. The most characteristic feature of the specimen is, however, the colour of the excessively abundant fringe of long hair on the margin of the ears. At the base of the upper edge the colour of these hairs is light yellowish chestnut; but on the remainder of the same margin, together with most of the lower ones, the hairs are black, with two small flecks of straw-colour near the middle of the lower border and a larger patch near the base of the same. In these respects the ear-fringes differ in colour from those of *B. c. nanus*. The specimen shown me by Mr. Ward is an older bull, in which the colour of the hair is bright red, while the horns, although smaller and more separated on the forehead, are of the type of those of *B. c. typicus*. This head indicates a race allied to or identical with my *B. c. cottoni* from the Semliki (P. Z. S. 1906, p. 996).

POSTSCRIPT.—Since this paper was read I have received evidence of the existence of another, and very well-defined, race of dwarf Buffalo, inhabiting the Yala district of South Nigeria, and characterised by the bulls being brownish black and the cows dun or khaki-coloured. Heads of a bull and cow were brought home by Mr. J. H. L. Thompson, of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and have been mounted at Mr. Rowland Ward's establishment. Mr. Thompson informs me that the bulls of this race stand from 3 ft. 6 in to 4 ft. at the withers, and that they are short-legged and heavily built animals. In the adults of both sexes the legs are light-coloured from the knees and hocks to the hoofs. The calves are dark grey.

My informant also states that there occurs a larger race of

Buffaloes in the same district, whose colour is darkish rufous, with the lower portions of the legs rather lighter than the body.

Although I am fully convinced of the distinctness of the small Yala race, I do not propose to give it a name until a specimen of the head of at least one of the sexes is available for the British Museum. A fuller account will be found in the 'Field,' vol. cxv, p. 1112, 1910.

4. On a new Antelope and on the Spanish Chamois.

By Prof. A. CARRERA, C.M.Z.S.

[Received May 10, 1910.]

(Text-figure 149.)

Among a great number of hunting-trophies obtained last winter by the Spanish sportsman, Mr. Ricardo de la Huerta, during an expedition in British East Africa, there are two Antelope heads which seem to represent a new form of *Damaliscus*. They belong, indeed, to animals similar in size and colour to *D. jimela*, but with the middle part of the face not black, but pale whitish buff. That they are not individual aberrations is demonstrated by the fact that Mr. de la Huerta has met with two herds entirely composed of pale blazed Topis—one on the Uasingishu plateau and another near the Turkwell River. According to the natives, these antelopes were also seen by the Roosevelt party, but no specimens were obtained.

Without entering now into the question whether it is a true species or only a local race of *Damaliscus corrigum*, I think this form with whitish forehead needs a name, and I propose to call it *Damaliscus phalius**.

I take this opportunity to describe and name also the Chamois from the Cantabrian Mountains, N. Spain, which is a very different form from the Pyrenean one (*Rupicapra rupicapra pyrenaica* Bonap.), smaller in size and redder in colour.

Following are the brief descriptions of these two new animals.

DAMALISCUS PHALIUS, sp. n.

Similar to *D. jimela* in size and in the colour of the body and limbs, but with a pale whitish-buff blaze on the face, instead of the black one common to the other forms of the *corrigum* group. In old males, according to Mr. de la Huerta, the blaze becomes pure white and almost as well defined as in *D. albifrons* and *D. pygargus*.

Hab. The north-western part of British East Africa, east of Mount Elgon.

* *Phalius* was, according to Dr. Ridgeway, the Greek name for a dark-coloured horse with a white blaze from the top of the head down to the nose.